Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 5 and 6. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Remarks/Arguments:

Figures 5 and 6 were objected to for not being labeled for not being designated as PRIOR ART. Figures 5 and 6 have been appropriately amended.

The Specification was objected for informalities. The specification has been appropriately amended.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claim 6 was objected to for being in improper form. Claim 6 has been appropriately amended.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 3 has been appropriately amended.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being unpatentable over Bracamonte et al. Claim 1 is amended to include,

> ... a compression rate determining unit for determining said second compression rate by (1) changing a compression rate of said selected approximate expression, (2) calculating a second sample data size with the changed compression rate and (3) determining the second compression rate to be the rate corresponding to the calculated second sample data size within a predetermined threshold range of a target data size.

Basis for these amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at page 8, lines 11-22 and Figure 2.

The compression-rate determining unit 3 in Applicants' exemplary embodiment repeats calculating approximate sizes, using the selected approximate expression at the Q factor (compression rate) of the first compression rate, until a calculated size is within a predetermined threshold range of the target size. That is, the compression-rate determining unit 3 determines a second compression rate "...by (1) changing a

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compression rate of said selected approximate expression, (2) calculating a second sample data size with the changed compression rate and (3) determining the second compression rate to be the rate corresponding to the calculated second sample data size within a predetermined threshold range of a target data size."

For example, if the first compression rate Q factor of "95" produces 150,000 bytes, and a target size of 40,000 bytes is desired, the Q factor is decreased by one (X-1) from X=94 with using the approximate-expression at the constants (a=27, b=2769, c=40748, d=832, and e=6543) corresponding to the sample data size of 145,435 Bytes until the approximate data size becomes not greater than 40,000 (Steps S27 and S28 in Fig. 2). (Page 8, lines 11-22).

Bracamonte et al. specifies a target compression ratio CR_T. An actual compression ratio CR_1 is determined with a scale factor SF_1. The value of CR_1 is compared with the target compression ratio CR_T. The image is stored if the relative error between the values CR_1 and CR_T is lower than a predetermined threshold value. (Col. 5, lines 49-57). The Examiner argues that CR_1 includes a "sample size." Bracamonte et al. does not, however, disclose "...calculating a **second sample data size** with the changed compression rate...." Further, Bracamonte et al does not determine "...the second compression rate to be the rate corresponding to the calculated **second sample data size within a predetermined threshold range of a target data size.**" That is, the threshold value in Bracamonte et al. refers to the difference between the values CR_1 and CR_T, and not the difference between the second sample data size and target data size.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2- 6 are allowable over the art of record.
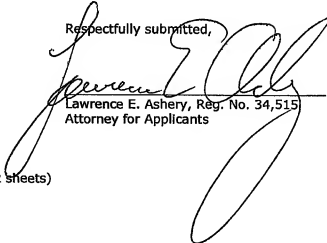
Claim 7, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 7 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 8-11 depend from claim 7. Accordingly, claims 8-11 are also allowable over the art of record.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LEA/DFD/dmw

Attachments: Figures 5 and 6 (2 sheets)

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